

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

In re: Juan Gonzalez Case No: 06-23

PUBLIC REPORT AND ORDER ACCEPTING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

David Everett Marko filed the above-captioned complaint against Juan Gonzalez ("Respondent") for alleged violation of Statement 8 ("I will limit my attacks on an opponent to legitimate challenges to that person's record, qualifications and positions") and Statement 11 ("I will not use or permit the use of campaign material that falsifies, distorts or misrepresents facts") of the voluntary portion of the Ethical Campaign Practices ordinance.

The Respondent was a candidate for County Court judge in 2006 against Judge Steven Leifman. The complaint alleged that on or about May 31, 2006, the Respondent gave a newspaper interview where he stated that Judge Leifman only worked part-time and that Judge Leifman's work on

mental health issues in the justice system took him away from his judicial responsibilities.

The complaint further alleged that the Respondent stated that he worked as a special assistant public defender when the Respondent only received appointments from the Public Defender's Office when the office was conflicted out of a case.

On August 29, 2006, the Ethics Commission found the complaint legally sufficient. Thereafter, on September 21, 2006, the Ethics Commission found probable cause. On January 31, 2007, the Advocate presented a proposed settlement agreement where the Respondent pled no contest to Count 1 of the complaint regarding the newspaper interview and Count 2 of the complaint regarding his alleged misrepresentation was dismissed.

Upon review of the complaint and the proposed settlement, and finding the settlement agreement in the best interest of Miami-Dade County, the Ethics Commission accepted the proposed settlement agreement.

Therefore, it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT the Complaint is DISMISSED with the settlement agreement.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust in public session on January 30, 2007.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

> Kerry Rosenthal Chairperson

cc: David J. Finger, Attorney for Respondent Juan Gonzalez